

## § 701.201

### OFFICE OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION PROGRAMS

#### § 701.201 Establishment of Office of Workers' Compensation Programs.

The Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment Standards, by authority vested in him or her by the Secretary of Labor in Secretary's Order No. 7-87 (52 FR 48466), established in the Employment Standards Administration (ESA) an Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP). The Assistant Secretary further designated as the head thereof a Director, who shall administer the programs assigned to that office by the Assistant Secretary.

[55 FR 28606, July 12, 1990]

#### § 701.202 Transfer of functions.

Pursuant to the authority vested in him or her by the Secretary of Labor, the Assistant Secretary for Employment Standards transferred from the Bureau of Employees' Compensation to the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs all functions of the Department of Labor with respect to the administration of benefits programs under the following statutes:

(a) The Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, as amended and extended, 33 U.S.C. 901 et seq.;

(b) Defense Base Act, 42 U.S.C. 1651 et seq.;

(c) District of Columbia Workmen's Compensation Act, 36 D.C. Code 501 et seq.;

(d) Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, 43 U.S.C. 1331;

(e) Nonappropriated Fund Instrumentalities Act, 5 U.S.C. 8171 et seq.;

(f) Title IV of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977, as amended, 30 U.S.C. 901 et seq.

[55 FR 28606, July 12, 1990]

#### § 701.203 Historical background.

Administration of the Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act (and the Federal Employees' Compensation Act, formerly known as the U.S. Employees' Compensation Act), was initially vested in an independent establishment known as the U.S. Employees' Compensation Commission. By Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1946 (3 CFR 1943-1949 Comp., p. 1064;

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60 Stat. 1095, effective July 16, 1946), the Commission was abolished and its functions were transferred to the Federal Security Agency to be performed by a newly created Bureau of Employees' Compensation within such Agency. By Reorganization Plan No. 19 of 1950 (15 FR 3178, 64 Stat. 1263) said Bureau was transferred to the Department of Labor, and the authority formerly vested in the Administrator, Federal Security Agency, was vested in the Secretary of Labor. By Reorganization Plan No. 6 of 1950 (15 FR 3174, 64 Stat. 1263), the Secretary of Labor was authorized to make from time to time such provisions as he shall deem appropriate, authorizing the performance of any of his functions by any other officer, agency or employee of the Department of Labor.

### TERMS USED IN THIS SUBCHAPTER

#### § 701.301 Definitions and use of terms.

(a) As used in this subchapter, except where the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) *Act* means the Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 901 et seq.), also referred to in this subchapter as LHWCA, and includes the provisions of any statutory extension of such Act (see § 701.101) pursuant to which compensation on account of an injury is sought.

(2) *Secretary* means the Secretary of Labor, United States Department of Labor, or his authorized representative.

(3) *Employment Standards Administration* means the Employment Standards Administration in the United States Department of Labor, headed by the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment Standards.

(4) [Reserved]

(5) *Office of Workers' Compensation Programs* or *OWCP* or *the Office* means the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs in the Department of Labor, described in § 701.201 of this part. Whenever the term *Office of Workmen's Compensation Programs* appears in this part or in part 702, it shall have the same meaning as *Office of Worker's Compensation Programs*.

(6) *Director* means the Director, OWCP, or his authorized representative.

(7) *District Director* means a person appointed as provided in sections 39 and 40 of the LHWCA or his or her designee, authorized by the Director to perform functions with respect to the processing and determination of claims for compensation under such Act and its extensions as provided therein and under this subchapter. These regulations substitute this term for the term "Deputy Commissioner" which is used in the statute. This substitution is for administrative purposes only and in no way affects the power or authority of the position as established in the statute.

(8) *Administrative Law Judge* means an administrative law judge appointed as provided in 5 U.S.C. 3105 and subpart B of 5 CFR part 930 (see 37 FR 16737), who is qualified to preside at hearings under 5 U.S.C. 557 and is empowered by the Secretary to conduct formal hearings whenever necessary in respect of any claim for compensation arising under the LHWCA and its extensions.

(9) *Chief Administrative Law Judge* means the Chief Judge of the Office of Administrative Law Judges, United States Department of Labor.

(10) *Board* or *Benefits Review Board* means the Benefits Review Board established by section 21 of the LHWCA (33 U.S.C. 921) as amended and constituted and functioning pursuant to the provisions of chapter VII of this Title 20 and Secretary of Labor's Order No. 38-72 (38 FR 90).

(11) *Department* means the United States Department of Labor.

(12)(i) *Employee* means any person engaged in maritime employment, including:

(A) Any longshore worker or other person engaged in longshoring operations;

(B) Any harbor worker, including a ship repairer, shipbuilder and shipbreaker;

(C) Any other individual to whom an injury may be the basis for a compensation claim under the LHWCA as amended, or any of its extensions;

(ii) The term does not include:

(A) A master or member of a crew of any vessel;

(B) Any person engaged by a master to load or unload or repair any small vessel under eighteen tons net.

(iii) Nor does this term include the following individuals (whether or not the injury occurs over the navigable waters of the United States) where it is first determined that they are covered by a state workers' compensation act:

(A) Individuals employed exclusively to perform office clerical, secretarial, security, or data processing work (but not longshore cargo checkers and cargo clerks);

(B) Individuals employed by a club (meaning a social or fraternal organization whether profit or nonprofit), camp, recreational operation (meaning any recreational activity, including but not limited to scuba diving, commercial rafting, canoeing or boating activities operated for pleasure of owners, members of a club or organization, or renting, leasing or chartering equipment to another for the latter's pleasure), restaurant, museum or retail outlet;

(C) Individuals employed by a marina, provided they are not engaged in its construction, replacement or expansion, except for routine maintenance such as cleaning, painting, trash removal, housekeeping and small repairs;

(D) Employees of suppliers, vendors and transporters temporarily doing business on the premises of a covered employer, provided they are not performing work normally performed by employees of the covered employer;

(E) Aquaculture workers, meaning those employed by commercial enterprises involved in the controlled cultivation and harvest of aquatic plants and animals, including the cleaning, processing or canning of fish and fish products, the cultivation and harvesting of shellfish, and the controlled growing and harvesting of other aquatic species;

(F) Individuals engaged in the building, repairing or dismantling of recreational vessels under 65 feet in length. For purposes of this subparagraph *recreational vessel* means a vessel manufactured or operated primarily for pleasure, or rented, leased or chartered by another for the latter's pleasure, and *length* means a straight line measurement of the overall length

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from the foremost part of the vessel to the aftmost part of the vessel, measured parallel to the center line. The measurement shall be from end to end over the deck, excluding sheer.

(13) *Employer* includes any employer who may be obligated as an employer under the provisions of the LHWCA as amended or any of its extensions to pay and secure compensation as provided therein.

(14) *Carrier* means an insurance carrier or self-insurer meeting the requirements of section 32 of the LHWCA as amended and of this subchapter with respect to authorization to provide insurance fulfilling the obligation of an employer to secure the payment of compensation due his employees under the LHWCA as amended or a statutory extension thereof.

(15) The terms *wages, national average weekly wage, injury, disability, death, and compensation* shall have the meanings set forth in section 2 of the LHWCA.

(16) *Claimant* includes any person claiming compensation or benefits under the provisions of the LHWCA as amended or a statutory extension thereof on account of the injury or death of an employee.

(b) The definitions contained in paragraph (a) of this section shall not be considered to derogate from any definitions or delimitations of terms in the LHWCA as amended or any of its statutory extensions in any case where such statutory definitions or delimitations would be applicable.

(c) As used in this subchapter, the singular includes plural and the masculine includes the feminine.

[38 FR 26860, Sept. 26, 1973, as amended at 42 FR 3848, Jan. 21, 1977; 50 FR 391, Jan. 3, 1985; 51 FR 4281, Feb. 3, 1986; 55 FR 28606, July 12, 1990]

**COVERAGE UNDER STATE COMPENSATION PROGRAMS**

**§ 701.401 Coverage under state compensation programs.**

(a) Exclusions from the definition of "employee" under § 701.301(a)(12), and the employees of small vessel facilities otherwise covered which are exempted from coverage under § 702.171, are dependent upon coverage under a state

workers' compensation program. For these purposes, a worker or dependent must first claim compensation under the appropriate state program and receive a final decision on the merits of the claim, denying coverage, before any claim may be filed under this Act.

(b) The intent of the Act is that state law will apply to those categories of employees if it otherwise would. Accordingly, notwithstanding any contrary state law, claims by any of the categories of workers excluded under § 701.301 or 702.171 must be made to and processed by the state and a merit decision denying coverage on jurisdictional grounds must be made before coverage or benefits under the Act may be sought.

(c) The time for filing notice and claim under the Act (see subpart B of part 702) does not begin to run for purposes of claims by those workers or dependents described in § 701.301(a)(12) and § 702.171, until a final adverse decision denying coverage under a state compensation act is received.

[50 FR 392, Jan. 3, 1985]

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